

ROANOKE STORIES

News Direct From Those Just in From San Francisco.

AN OLD MAN'S GRAPHIC TALE

It Is Now Believed the Great Fire Was Almost Wholly Incendiary—Description of Conditions There at Present.

At six o'clock last evening the steamship Roanoke the first vessel out of San Francisco for this port and Portland since the terrible earthquake of last Wednesday, touched here at the Callender pier for an hour on her way to the Oregon metropolis. She was exactly forty-nine hours from the San Francisco dock to the Callender, and had on board about thirty-three people out of the hundred she carried out of Los Angeles and the Bay City. Twenty-one of these were from San Francisco, and a round dozen from Eureka, for Portland. She dropped sixty-seven from her roster at the last named port.

Captain Dunham reports that when he entered the desolated port, the authorities at once ordered him into the channel off the city, and to prepare his ship for the immediate reception of her full complement of sick women and children and the worse invalids from the hospitals destroyed there; but he prevailed upon them to relinquish the idea and permit him to pursue his voyage, on the ground that all the people he had on board for Eureka and Portland, would become a burden on the city and that on his return trip he would hold himself amenable to orders which might be fulfilled with more ease than at that particular time. They let him go, after taking on the twenty-three people who were waiting for transportation thence and he sailed at five o'clock on last Saturday evening.

The captain who was ashore at San Francisco for a couple of hours says the scene that confronts one from the bay or from any point of vantage there, is

enough to make the heart sick; all the great familiar structures are either down or dismantled beyond recognition, except as to location, and the population under martial law, and reduced by the enormous hordes leaving daily, looks little like the big, busy throngs who used to crowd the splendid thoroughfares, active, eager, engaged in business and pleasure, smiling and happy, with a word of welcome for everyone; now morbid, wretched and down-cast, poor in appearance and low in spirit, beggars, where they used to give and spend freely, homeless and borne down by the hopelessness of a dismal future. It is altogether pitiful to note the awful transition that has come over the city. But he believes the native courage of the people will serve them in good stead when the acute pressure is lifted and they can see their way to resume, and redeem and rebuild.

Among other sad things told by Captain Dunham was the awful fact that in the parks of the city on Thursday and Friday nights of last week, over one hundred little ones were born, thirty of whom perished from exposure and the lack of attention consequent upon the conditions under which they first saw the light; and he says the establishment of a Maternity hospital there was the greatest essential that has been supplied and the whole city is grateful for the foresight that accomplished it so quickly and thoroughly.

Tale of an Old Soldier.

As soon as the Roanoke has cast her plank to the stringers of the Callender pier a reporter for the Astorian boarded her and sought out a San Francisco man who could tell him something of the real conditions as they are known to one perfectly familiar with the city, and was so fortunate to engage the interest of an old soldier of the Grand Army, a man who has spent years in the California metropolis, and is now en route to Oregon City, to visit a daughter whom he has not seen for some years. His name is Daniel Watson, and the story he told was told with the firm and quiet force of a man deeply impressed with the volume and quality that such a tale is susceptible of. Mr. Watson knew the famous city as he did the floors of his own home, and he declares that no more than one-fourth of the old city stands today. The rest has gone down before the rocking of the earth or heaven-ward on the wings of flame that followed.

"And it was not the earthquake that

prostrated San Francisco, my son," said he, "the fire is responsible for nine-tenths of the awful loss of property. And it is now a universal conviction in the minds of men down there that the 'temblor' was not wholly responsible for one tenth of the fires that devastated the place; that the scum of the city: those who hated the rich and lived only for their undoing, used the moment of the panic and absorption incident to the shock, to set hundreds of fires in all localities. There was no time nor inclination, then, to attribute the swift-rising and widely-separated fires to any other cause than the one most likely to be charged with it, namely, the earthquake, but, now, after a sea of careful reasoning there is a growing certainty that all the flames arising south of Market street, were deliberately set by evil men with evil intent, and that the fires got away from them and ran the uttermost limits of the great town, was the very acme of all they hoped for.

"Except for some fringes on the western and southeastern limits of the city, there is no San Francisco. From North Beach, around the waterfront, as far south as the Marine Hospital, and then back again to the beach, on a diagonal line, the hills and valleys between, are swept clean, except for the steel skeletons of the sky-scrapers that are standing but to accentuate the scope and horror of the wreck. The Call building, the new Chronicle, the Crocker, the old Flood and a dozen more of the loftiest of the unfinished buildings, are all standing, squarely in plumb, but with all inner and outer work stripped from them. Telegraph Hill, Russian Hill and the benches that flank them, rising gradually from Market street and including that magnificent street, are utterly devastated of everything in the way of a home, business-house, church, theatre, hall, or hostelry, and there is nothing to guide one over the old familiar routes of the city except an occasional oasis of clear earth upon which may be noted a curb, a crossing, a car-track, or something which defines a street.

"What people are still there are swarming in the parks and open spaces about the city, living out in a raw day and night, a few, perhaps, and mostly women and children and the sick, having the added comforts of tents and other improvised shelters. Martial law reigns supreme, and the prime morcy of the whole situation is the rigidity and resourcefulness of that law as applied to San Francisco, in this, her most dreadful hour. Had not General Funston, his officers and men been on the ground quickly, and had not the limity of authority been invoked at every turn, the earthquake and the fire would have been the least of the evils that would have befallen the city and her people. The army backed by all the municipal powers that Mayor Schmidt could array on the moment, is responsible for the wonderful outcome from a veritable hell on earth.

"The omnipresence of quick and certain death has had a superb effect in checking and punishing overt acts during this high crisis, and it makes a man sick to the soul to think what might have happened under less strong government; for San Francisco, like all great cosmopolitan cities, had an underground world literally alive with swarming scoundrels who would have made inhuman use of the opportunities at hand, and I say, again, and still again, that the safe and grateful issue of this immense reverse in old Frisco, is due, first and last, to the work done there by Funston and his regiments.

"Will the city be built again? Will young man, you cannot know the spirit and pluck of those people very well, to ask such a question. Build? Of course they'll build! And as never before. Already the brains and wealth and staunch manhood of the city is engaged in the preliminary work of planning and re-building on scales of breadth and direction and cost that will make the old city look cheap to the memory of the man most proud of it in the old days. Why, there are millions and millions of money yet in the scorched and twisted vaults that lie buried in the debris there, and the old Argonaut spirit still survives, undaunted and resourceful as ever it was.

"No. I lost nothing of any great value. I am a poor man, with enough to keep me going comfortably for what years are still in my allotment, but you can bet everything you've got, when my visit is out with my little girl over here in the Willamette valley, I am going back to my old habitat in the city by the Golden Gate, and when I get back there this fall, I expect to see the Phoenix of the proud and beautiful city uprise from the waste of ashes that now serves her almost as a grave. Good by! Good by! Glad to have passed a word with you on the subject that now engrosses the minds of all men."

The following is a list of the Roanoke's passengers, from San Francisco to Portland: L. F. Dearborn, wife and child, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hunter, A. L.

Corry, Mrs. Selma Beyer, Minnie Thorn, Miss F. B. Rogers, Mrs. A. Paulsen, Mrs. G. J. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Cronin, R. Glover, Perry W. Bennett, C. S. Bennett, Gust Olsen, Joseph Levy, A. Huss, Charles Moran, Y. Keiger, J. E. McFadden, M. H. Will and Daniel Watson.

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM.

The steamer Alliance will leave out for Eureka tomorrow morning early.

The motor schooner Della left out for Siletz yesterday afternoon.

The French bark Francoise D'Ambois left over the bar on the mid-day flood yesterday.

The schooner Arago, Captain Simpson is loaded at Knappton, awaiting orders to sail for San Pedro.

The four-masted schooner Sehome arrived down from Portland, yesterday and will probably get to sea today Captain J. W. Babbidge, L. D. Williams and G. A. Loomis were Portland passengers on the Steamer Lurline, last night.

The steamship Roanoke came in from San Francisco and docked at the Callender pier at 6 o'clock yesterday evening. This issue contains one or two good stories about her arrival and departure, at and from the Bay City. She will return down from Portland early on Friday morning next.

PERSONAL MENTION.

J. C. Mayo and J. C. Beland of the "A. & C." spent Sunday with friends in Portland.

P. Guise of Portland, is a visitor in this city for a few days.

Messrs Baker and Ferries of the managerial end of the Wilbur Case Lumber Company of Rainier, were in the city yesterday.

CHICAGO'S CHINESE GIVE \$5,000.

CHICAGO, April 23.—Chicago's Chinatown has contributed more than \$5,000 to the victims of the San Francisco earthquake. Many of the Celestials unaware of anything out of the ordinary had occurred in the coast city were acquainted with the facts of the horrors at the Joss house meeting yesterday.

EVOLUTION OF RELIGION.

CHICAGO, April 23.—The evolution of the idea of God was manifested strikingly yesterday in the fact that few if any of Chicago clergymen ascribed the San Francisco disaster to an avenging deity. In almost every instance the earthquake was attributed to purely natural causes.

He sang last night with confidence, with accuracy of expression, with sweetness and with power, while his rich baritone voice has a sympathy and melody that few artists possess. His recitations attracted repeated encores and he pleased every hearer.—Lewiston Tribune.

PROGRAM OF CONCERT

Given by Woman's Club Tonight at Odd Fellows' Hall.

PART I.

1—Chorus, "Love's Dream After the Ball".....Czbulika GLEE CLUB.

2—(a) Melody.....Moskowski
(b) "The Juggleress".....Moskowski
(c) Basso Astnjato.....A. Arensky
(d) Fledermaus Waltz, Transcription...Strauss-Schatt MISS CAMPBELL.

3—(a) Bedouin Love Song.....Schnecker
(b) "Together".....Neidlinger MR. CLAIRE MONTEITH.

4—(a) Nocturne, G Major.....Chopin
(b) Ballad, A Flat Major.....Chopin

PART II.

1—(a) Chorus, The Night Has a Thousand Eyes..Hawley
(b) The Girls of Seville.....Denza GLEE CLUB.

2—(a) "The Turnkey's Song".....de Koven
(b) "Flower Fetters".....Willeby
(c) "The Spring Has Come".....White MR. CLAIRE MONTEITH.

3—(a) Italian Concerto, first movement.....Bach
(b) Prelude, D Flat Major.....Chopin
(c) "Whims".....Schumann MISS CAMPBELL.

4—(a) "Sweet is Tipperary".....Fisher
(b) "Mountebanks Song".....Watson
(c) "The Birth of Morn".....Leoni MR. CLAIRE MONTEITH.

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A special representative from Strauss Bros., Chicago, master tailors, will be at C. H. Cooper's on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 20th, 21st, 23rd and 24th. Now is the time to order your new suit; you can't help but find a pattern to please you perfectly in this line of woollens conceded to be the largest and finest in America.

Gray will be the most popular coloring for Spring. 150 varieties of gray patterns, such as overplaids, diagonals and plain weaves, as well as an immense assortment of other tasty colorings and a large range of black and blue goods all of which will be worn by good dressers this Spring. Can be seen only at C. H. Cooper's on April 20th to 24th.

Grocery Specials

FOR

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

French Prunes, small Sizes, 10 lbs 50c

Pink Beans, 25 lbs for - - - \$1.00

Water Witch Soap, 12 boxes - 50c

Bananas, per dozen - - - 25c

Prepared Mustard, 6 oz Jars, 3 for 25c

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